



Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living

Advocacy Access & Awareness Services

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Independent Living Services

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Business & Employment Services

Dear Subcommittee Members;

As a disability advocate with the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living whose mission is to help improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities. I strongly urge you pass The Inclusive Home Design Act (HB 4138).

According to the Michigan Association of Centers for Independent Living (MACIL) legislative alert, "The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (or MSHDA) plans the use of those funds. House Bill 4138, sponsored by Rep. Lorence Wenke and Rep. Fred Miller, would require MSHDA to spend half of one pot of Federal dollars to build homes that are accessible through one entrance on the first floor, and which allow an accessible path to the first floor bathroom. This would enable people with disabilities to visit their friends (so such access is called "visitability") and make it easier for anyone who acquires a disability to stay in their own home. Right now, the bill is in limbo."

Last year alone, our Intake and Referral Specialist received 79 requests for home modifications. Having a ramp added to your home ranges in price between \$5,000-\$20,000. Most of the calls we receive are from senior citizens or those adjusting to their new disability that are unable to afford these modifications. Lack of access to their home is one of the primary reasons that individuals with disabilities end up in nursing homes. Furthermore, accessibility would also lower tax payer's liability.

Please pass the Inclusive Home Design Act (HB 4138) As our society ages, and more and more people are using mobility devices, requiring Inclusive Home Design Act is just common sense. To modify a home to make it accessible is EXTREMELY expensive and *stressful*. Please mandate the best choice, visitability for all! If you would like to contact me, I can be reached at (734) 971-0277 (ext. 31). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

Kathryn Cromwell
Disability Advocate

